

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08429 031729Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-05

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01 /077 W

----- 111595

R 031600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1118

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAINIHGEN GERMANY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

CHARMISH MAAG TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8429

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS MILI GR US

SUBJ: GOG CORRECTS ERRONEOUS REPORTS OF DELAYS
IN DELIVERY OF F-4 AIRCRAFT

1. SUMMARY: DISTORTED STORIES IN GREEK PRESS ALLEGING
NEFARIOUS ROLE OF USG AND GOI IN WITHHOLDING DELIVERY
OF F-4 PHANTOMS PURCHASED BY GOG BUT LOANED TO IRAN
ELICITED FROM GOG HELPFUL COMMENTS DENYING F-4'S INVOLVED
AND ATTEMPTING TO PUT SITUATION IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.
ACTUALLY SITUATION REFERRED TO IS GOI RELUCTANCE TO RELEASE
AS SCHEDULED MAP PROVIDED F-5A'S FOR REDISTRIBUTION TO
GREECE. END SUMMARY.

2. STORY IN OCTOBER 30 ELLINIKOS VORRAS (THESSALONIKI)
CLAIMED THAT USG HAD WITHHELD DELIVERY OF 12 F-4 PHANTOM
AIRCRAFT PURCHASED BY GREECE IN ORDER TO FAVOR TURKEY,
WHOSE AIR FORCE BUILDUP IN THIS VERSION CONTINUED APACE.
MOST ATHENS PAPERS OVER WEEKEND ELABORATED ON THIS REPORT
CLAIMING THAT 12 F-4 PHANTOMS WERE SOLD TO GREECE BY USG
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08429 031729Z

AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOANED TO IRAN, THEREBY DELAYING DELIVERY

TO GREECE, A DELAY COMPOUNDED BY USG UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE GOI "GREEN LIGHT" TO TURN THESE AIRCRAFT OVER TO GREEKS. THESE STORIES WENT ON TO REPORT THAT GOI WAS REFUSING TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENT DESPITE PROVISION TO IT BY USG OF LIKE NUMBER BUT MORE ADVANCED MODEL OF SAME TYPE AIRCRAFT.

3. ON NOVEMBER 3, SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLENTIN CARRIED FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY A GOVERNMENT SOURCE ON "PHANTOM"REPORTS. QUOTE:
A GOVERNMENT SOURCE, COMMENTING ON INACCURATE REPORTS OVER THE CASE OF 12 PHANTOM AIRCRAFT, CLARIFIED THAT THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION WERE NOT PHANTOMS BUT PLANES OF A LIGHTER TYPE. FURTHERMORE, NOT ONLY DID AMERICAN AUTHORITIES NOT RAISE ANY DIFFICULTY OVER THEIR SUPPLY TO GREECE BUT, ON THE CONTRARY, THEY MADE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO RELEASE THEM IN ORDER TO HAVE THEM DESPATCHED TO GREECE. SUPPLY IS HAMPERED BY PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES RASIED BY IRANIAN AUTHORITIES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN APPROPRIATE STEPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN, AND IT IS HOPED THAT CONCURRENT AMERICAN AND GREEK ACTION WILL OVERSOME EXISTING DIFFICULTIES. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: ADDRESSEES WILL RECOGNIZE THAT SITUATION UNDERLYING THESE DISTORTED STORIES IS PENDING SALE TO GREECE UNDER FMS PROGRAM OF 12 F-5A AIRCRAFT PROVIDED SOME YEARS BEFORE TO GOI AS GRANT MATERIEL ASSISTANCE AND ABOUT TO BE DECLARED EXCESS TO IRANIAN NEEDS. GOI RELUCTANCE TO RELEASE AIRCRAFT ON ANTICIPATED DATE HAS DELAYED THEIR TRANSFER TO GREECE, PROBABLY ADDING SIGNIFICANTLY TO COST OF DELIVERY AS A RESULT. STATEMENT BY GOG IS PRAISEWORTHY EFFORT TO PUT ON RECORD FACTS OF SITUATION AND REPRESENTS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF INCREASING WILLINGNESS OF GOG TO COPE WITH GRATUITOUS ANTI-AMERICAN SLANT SO EVIDENT IN GREEK PRESS STORIES INVOLVING USG OVER PAST FIFTEEN MONTHS. KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS08429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750381-0423
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751182/aaaacvge.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOG CORRECTS ERRONEOUS REPORTS OF DELAYS IN DELIVERY OF F-4 AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, MILI, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006